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From Thursday November 10, to Saturday November 12, 1803.

AT the Court at *St. James's*, the 9th Day of
November 1803,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

HIS Majesty having been graciously pleased to deliver the Custody of the Seals of the Duchy and County-Palatine of Lancaster to the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Pelham, the Oath of Chancellor of the said Duchy was this Day, by His Majesty's Command, administered to his Lordship.

Admiralty-Office, November 12, 1803.

Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, K. B. Comander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. dated on board His Majesty's Ship Bellerophon, at Sea, 13th August 1803.

ON the 5th Instant, between Cape Nicola Mele and Cape François, I fell in with the Elephant, when Captain Dundas informed me, that the Two Line of Battle Ships, with the Frigate Guerrier, had got out of the Cape in a very violent Squall late in the Afternoon of the 24th, and that the Duquesne of Seventy-four Guns, had been captured in the Afternoon of the 25th, but the Duguay Trouen, from Superiority of sailing, had escaped, although the Elephant had commenced an Action within point-blank Shot; but for the Particulars of these Transactions, I beg to refer their Lordships to the Letter of Captain Loring, and I trust their Lordships will view the Ardor and Zeal of that Officer and his Squadron as meriting their Praise, though unfortunately the Darkness of the Evening, when the Duguay Trouen hauled her Wind, prevented the Elephant from being seconded by the Thefeus in Time to be useful.

I am, &c. J. T. DUCKWORTH.

*Bellerophon, off Cape Maize,
July 26, 1803.*

SIR,

IN pursuance of your Orders relative to the Blockade of Cape François with the Squadron under my Command, in the Performance of which, I trust, my Endeavours may not be found deficient, I beg Leave to inform you, that on Sunday the

24th Ultimo, at Six P. M., being off that Port, a heavy Squall came on from the Land, which induced the Two Line-of-Battle Ships to attempt an Escape: The Weather soon moderating they were immediately discovered, and the Signal for a general Chace was made. On their clearing the Harbour they hauled to the Westward to take Advantage of the Land Wind; every Effort possible was made to keep Sight of them during the Night, which was effected principally by the Vigilance of Captains Evans and Perkins of the *Æolus* and *Tartar*. At Half-past Nine o'Clock I was informed by an Officer from the Elephant, who had been on board the *Tartar*, that One of the Ships had tacked to the Eastward, and the other steering to the Westward, close along Shore; in consequence of which, I directed Captain Dundas to tack, and endeavour to cut off the former, the Elephant being the weather-most Ship, and pursued the other with the Two Frigates; the *Thefeus* and *Vanguard* being to Leeward in the first of the Squall, did not join me till about Twelve o'Clock at Night; at Daylight we were within Gun-Shot of the Chace. On hearing a heavy Cannonading to the Eastward, I made the *Thefeus* Signal to chase East, having been unfortunately unable to make a similar Disposition during the Night; and at Half-past Three P. M. on the 25th, we came up with, and after exchanging several Bow and Stern Chasers with the *Vanguard* and *Tartar*, who were the headmost Ships, she struck her Colours, and proves to be the *Duquesne*, of Seventy-four Guns, commanded by Monsieur Ker-rangel, Capitaine de Vaisseau, from Cape François bound to Europe. I am sorry to say one Man was killed, and another wounded on board the *Vanguard*; none on board the Enemy's Ships.

In passing between the Two Islands of St. Domingo and Tortudo, near Port-au-Paix, we took the French National Schooner *Oiseau* of Sixteen Guns and Sixty Men, commanded by Monsieur Druault, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, which I have ordered, with the *Duquesne*, to Port Royal, under Charge of the *Vanguard* and *Tartar*.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

JOHN LORING.

*Rear-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.*